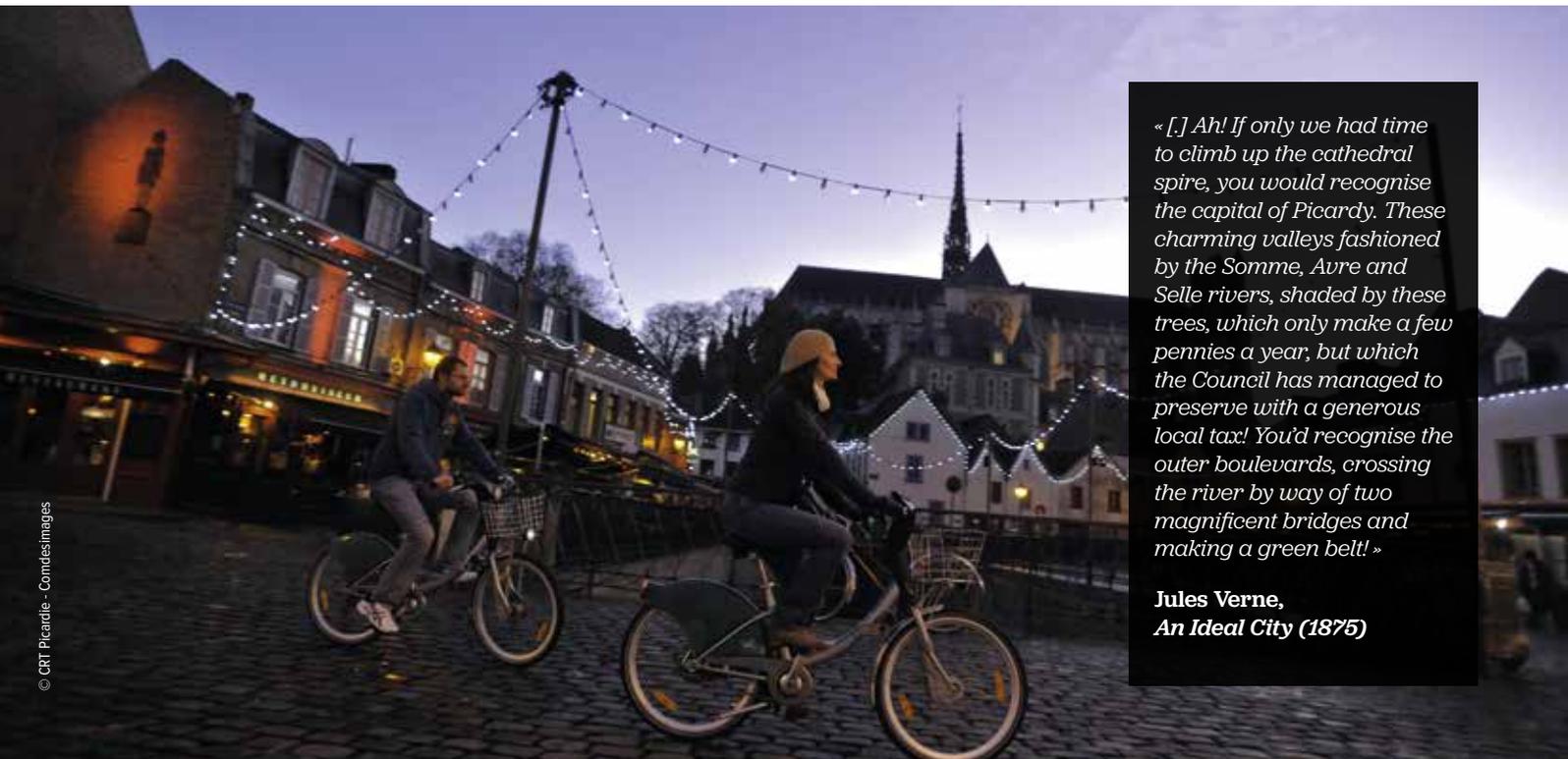


# WELCOME TO AMIENS

**VISIT** 2018  
**AMIENS**  
PRESS RELEASE

## THE ADVANTAGES OF A GREAT CITY, THE PEACEFUL PLEASURES OF THE COUNTRYSIDE!



*« [...] Ah! If only we had time to climb up the cathedral spire, you would recognise the capital of Picardy. These charming valleys fashioned by the Somme, Avre and Selle rivers, shaded by these trees, which only make a few pennies a year, but which the Council has managed to preserve with a generous local tax! You'd recognise the outer boulevards, crossing the river by way of two magnificent bridges and making a green belt! »*

**Jules Verne,**  
*An Ideal City (1875)*

Amiens was first established as a site for crossing the river Somme: Samarobriva (meaning "Bridge over the Somme") is first mentioned in Caesar's «Gallic Wars» in 54 BCE. In the late 3<sup>rd</sup> century, the Ambiani Celtic tribe gave their name to the fortified city.

With its many waterways dating from the Middle Ages, it was also dubbed "little Venice of the North" by Louis XI in honour of the picturesque Saint-Leu district, watered by the river Somme and its canals.

Boasting a long, rich cultural heritage, Amiens has naturally developed the quality of its beautiful setting as well as its natural and architectural heritage. Its gentle way of life was commented on by writer Jules Verne, who called it his ideal city and moved here.

Amiens is primarily renowned for its cathedral, Notre-Dame, listed as World Heritage, and its light show Chroma, a riot of colour that bursts out at nightfall.

Then there are the famous floating gardens, known as the Hortillonnages, a lush green paradise perfect for communing with nature, just a few minutes from the effervescent town centre. These charming floating islands are much appreciated by those seeking out tranquillity. An excursion dripping with poetry during which visitors can admire gardens worthy of a natural Eden in an urban habitat!

Amiens harbours many more treasures: the home of Jules Verne, the Belfry, the Picardy Museum, the puppet theatre in pure Picard tradition, parks, gardens, and of course the Saint-Leu district with its many pavement cafés making it an ideal place for strolling. Whether you visit it on foot or by bike, Amiens is endearing, exotic and captivating.

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Public opening dates and times  
Monday to Saturday: 9:30 am  
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& Sunday :  
10:00 am to 12:00 am and 2:00 pm  
to 5:00 pm

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